

LA PORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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To: La Porte County Permitted Retail Food/Retail Store Establishment Owner/Operators

We, at the La Porte County Health Department, hope that yourself and your loved ones have found a way to be happy and healthy during these upside-down times. The COVID-19 virus has undoubtedly forced everyone to rethink business procedures as well as personal life movements like never before.

In anticipation of Governor Holcomb easing restrictions on restaurant operations, we have enclosed a document titled "COVID-19 Foodservice Recommendations Pre-Opening Checklist After Closure or Reduced Service." Further, we are providing the Center for Disease Control's reopening "Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting." These documents, along with other useful links, can be found on our webpage at <https://laporteco.in.gov/departments-online/health-department/environmental-health-services/>

As we await Governor Holcomb's announcements, we are at this time unsure what physical changes/personnel protection changes/service changes you each may need to make for your food permitted establishment. However, the environmental health/food division would like to provide you with a snapshot of changes we have decided to implement going forward for an undetermined amount of time.

1. Inspectors will wear N-95 masks during the inspections.
2. One employee may accompany the inspector during the inspection, but social distance of 6-feet shall be the norm.
3. If the inspection space is in a small area, employees may need to vacate the space during the inspection.
4. Inspectors will carry a placard "Health Inspection In Progress This Vendor Will Resume Operation in Approximately 15 Minutes" to place in the window of a mobile unit. Mobile units (i.e. Food Truck/Food Trailer) are by operational size not conducive to social distancing. Thus, operation will need to cease during the inspection process.
5. Tablets will be used for inspections not requiring a signature. Inspection results will be emailed after onsite closing conference is completed with appropriate social distancing.
6. When Governor Holcomb resumes full operations for permitted food establishments, our department will begin inspections with grocery stores. We will be giving all establishments that have been under the limited/carryout/curbside service order a two-week time frame prior to inspection.

While everyone tries to master the new face of food service we cannot forget the main mission of the inspection process, which is to prevent foodborne illness.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (219) 325-5563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda Lahners".

Amanda Lahners, REHS/RS
Environmental Health/Food Supervisor

Mission Statement:

"To engage and partner in a collaborative and responsive effort with the community and local organizations with respect to the diversity of the community to better serve present and future generations."